

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry Homework Policy

Definition:

Homework is an out-of-class assignment to support learning in which most – if not all – work is completed outside the classroom.

Purpose:

The purpose of homework is to support learning in one of four ways:

Preparation: provides background information which allows students to gather/organize information before a lesson/instruction.

Checking for Understanding: provides students and teachers the opportunity to assess students' grasp of newly acquired learning.

Practice: reinforces newly acquired knowledge and skills.

Extension of Learning: provides the pursuit of further knowledge and/or higher level cognitive applications, or a comprehensive assignment in which students have been provided current instruction and should be completed at home.

Homework also provides parents insight into classroom instruction, curriculum and assessments.

Guiding Beliefs:

1. Homework must be of *quality* in order for it to play an important role in the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge.
2. Completing homework allows a student to be better prepared to actively participate in class activities and discussions.
3. Homework provides feedback to the teacher and the student about how learning is progressing.
4. Homework not completed should be considered incomplete; students should be given additional opportunities to submit work when reasonable.
5. Homework may improve learning and performance on formative and summative assessments.
6. Homework is assessed and graded based on the type of the assignment. Generally, homework is considered a learner quality (Process grade).
7. Homework is often considered helpful in instilling student responsibility and study habits.
8. Homework has the potential to promote student ownership of learning and encourage self-assessment.

9. Students will learn more from homework if they think the teacher values it and is monitoring it.
10. Students who regularly complete homework should be recognized for their out-of-school work ethic.
11. A student's opportunity, capacity, and ability to complete homework are sometimes based on conditions at home, parental support, and other external factors.
12. Students, teachers, and parents all have essential roles in the completion of homework.

Policy

1. Teachers will assign quality (effective) homework. Homework is quality when...
 - a. It is relevant, useful, and driven by the learning goals/objectives of the lesson.
 - b. It elicits a teacher response/feedback.
 - c. the purpose of the assignment is clearly understood by students.
 - d. it provides clear expectations for completion.
 - e. it helps evaluate student understanding (Process or Product).
 - f. it is differentiated, when appropriate, based on student choice to reach learning goals, student learning style, and a student's opportunity, capacity and ability.
2. A student will be provided with an additional opportunity to submit homework, when reasonable and appropriate.
3. Homework will be assessed and graded as follows:
 - a. Preparation assignment – a Process grade
 - b. Checking for Understanding assignment – a Process grade
 - c. Practice assignment – a Process grade
 - d. Extension of Learning assignment* – a Process grade, or Product grade. Note that Extension of Learning homework, if used as a product grade, cannot count for more than 25 percent of the student's overall trimester strand's product grade.
** Teachers will inform students when a homework assignment will be graded as a Product grade.*
4. Homework is generally graded as a Process grade. As such, homework is a factor and a consideration in determining National Junior Honor Society eligibility. See Grading Policy and NJHS criteria.
5. When homework is assigned, it shall last, on average, no more than 30 minutes per subject area, per night.
6. Homework is a shared responsibility among students, teachers, administration, and parents:

STUDENT Responsibility

- Recognize that homework prepares you to be ready for the next days' learning.
- Record homework in *Agenda*.
- Ask for clarification when an assignment is not understood.
- Take agenda home with all necessary materials.
- Accept responsibility for completing the assigned work independently (if possible) and turning in quality work.
- Make arrangements with teacher to make-up incomplete/ missing homework assignments.

TEACHER Responsibility

- Assign homework that is relevant, meaningful, reinforces classroom learning, and is appropriate to students' learning needs.
- Provide time for each student to record homework in agenda, preview the requirements, and ask questions.
- Provide time for clarifying questions.
- Ensure students understand what is needed to complete the homework.
- Assess homework formatively and provide students with immediate feedback. Preparation, Checking for Understanding and Practice homework shall be graded by way of the Process Strand. Extension of Learning homework assignment shall be graded in either the Process or Product strands.
- Provide opportunities to complete missed homework (zeroes are unacceptable).

PARENT Responsibility

- Check *Agenda* nightly and make a plan for homework time.
- Ask your child to explain his/her homework; attempt to clarify, provide support, and respond to questions.
- Record in the agenda any questions/difficulties child has when completing the homework.
- Check to be sure child has all necessary materials.
- Check to see if homework is complete and is of quality.
- Be aware of homework your child has not completed. Support teacher attempts to provide additional time for students to complete the work. This may occur before, during, after school, or during lunch.

SCHOOL/ADMINISTRATION Responsibility

- Establish and communicate to the school community the ASFMS comprehensive homework policy.
- Support and supervise appropriate implementation of homework policy.

